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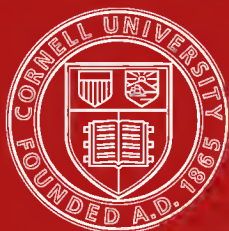
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Model-insect money of ancient China.



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H. A. RAMSDEN, F.R.N.S.



1914.

MODEL=INSECT MONEY

OF

ANCIENT CHINA.

H. A. Ramsden BY

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President of the Yokohama Numismatic Society, District Secretary
of the American Numismatic Association, etc.

AUTHOR OF

Manuals of Far Eastern Numismatics, Korean Coin Charms and
Amulets, Siamese Porcelain and other Tokens, Chinese
Openwork Amulet Coins, etc.

EDITOR OF

"The Numismatic Monthly."

"The Numismatic and Philatelic Journal of Japan,"



JUN KOBAYAGAWA Co.

Numismatic & Philatelic Printers & Publishers,
Yokohama, Japan.

1914.

PREFATORY REMARKS.

The greater part of the information contained in the following pages is mainly derived from an article by the author on the same subject and under the same heading, which originally appeared in the "Numismatic and Philatelic Journal of Japan." The present monograph is, nevertheless, more than a mere excerpt from the above publication, since its scope has been considerably extended so as to include other matters having an indirect bearing on, if not actual connection with, the question under discussion.

Readers acquainted with my previous efforts will consequently find herein embodied new material which it is hoped will add further interest to the topic indicated by the title. Although this contribution—the first of a uniform series which will be periodically published—is primarily intended for advanced scholars in this special line of study and research work, it has been at the same time written in a simple style with the endeavour of making it also as attractive as possible to the general reader.

H. A. RAMSDEN.

Yokohama, December, 1914.

BY THE SAME AUTHOR.

Sugar Estate Tokens of Cuba.

Kwan Ei Tsu Ho Coins of Japan.

Corean Coin Charms and Amulets.

Siamese Porcelain and other Tokens.

Chinese Openwork Amulet Coins.

Manuals of Far Eastern Numismatics :—

No. 1.—Chinese Paper Money.

No. 2.— „ Early Barter and Uninscribed Money.

No. 3.— „ Ancient Spade Money, Part I.

No. 4.— „ „ „ „ „ II.

No. 5.— „ „ „ „ „ III.

No. 6.— „ „ „ „ „ IV.

In the “*Numismatist*.”

Modern Coins of Corea, April, 1909.

Chinese Historical Amulet Coin, August, 1909.

Foreign Money in China, February, 1910.

Modern Chinese Copper Coins, June, 1910. (Reprinted).

(FIRST PRIZE DUNHAM COMPETITION.)

Pictorial Characters on Ancient Chinese Coins, June, 1911.

Meiji or Present Period Coins of Japan, August, 1911.

In the “*American Journal of Numismatics*.”

Tsuh Moh Knife Coins : Small Series, October, 1910.

Carapace Money of China, September, 1911.

In “*Mehl's Numismatic Monthly*.”

Glass Coins of the Far East, March, 1910.

Paper Money of China, October, 1911.

In “*Spink's Numismatic Circular*.”

Some rare and unpublished Chinese Coins : Tehui Money, 1911.

Some rare and unpublished Chinese Coins : Kung Money, 1912.

Some rare and unpublished Chinese Coins : Nieh Money, 1913.

In “*Berliner Münzblätter*.”

Papiergeld in China, October, 1911. (In German.)

Editor of “*Numismatic Monthly*.” (In Japanese.)

Editor of “*The Numismatic and Philatelic Journal of Japan*” (In English and Japanese). &c. &c. &c.



MODEL-INSECT MONEY OF ANCIENT CHINA.

IN the Journal of Oriental research the "Indian Antiquary" for 1913, commencing with the April number, there appear a series of scholarly articles by Sir Richard Carnac Temple, Bart., on the "Obsolete Tin Currency and Money of the Federated Malay States." Among the various kinds of currencies employed in those regions, not the least interesting are the tin ingots in models of animals such as crocodiles, elephants, tortoises, mantis and cocks. The general inference which the author draws is that the idea of a model-animal currency travelled Eastward to Burma, and then further East still into the Malay Peninsula and Siam. But he also mentions that against this inference, however, must be set the ancient Chinese model knife money and the model hoe money, still in use in upper Siam, which point to an independent development of the idea of the model tin currency and subsequent coinage of Siam and the Malay Peninsula out of models of common objects. We wonder if this learned Orientalist would have arrived at more definite conclusions if he had been acquainted with the existence of a model-animal money cast in bronze and which had been used as currency in Ancient China several thousand years before that of their tin counterparts of the Malay Peninsula?

Professors Ridgeway, Gardner and others have already drawn



Fig. 1. Grub or Maggot of the Cicada. (From the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai*.)

our attention to weights in the form of animals such as bulls' head; lion, sheep, duck from Assyria and other ancient countries, while in Sir Richard Temple's collection are also to be found Burmese and Tenasserim weights in the form of elephants, ducks, etc. But it has remained for Ancient China, that mysterious land of surprises and about which we yet know comparatively so little, to furnish us with the first authentic instance where money has been fashioned in metal after some real animal indigenous to the soil.



Fig. 2. Pupa state of the Cicada. (From the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai*.)

There can now be no doubt about the Model-Insect Money of Ancient China, amply supported as it is to-day in every way by both literary and archeological evidence.

Before proceeding to detail the accumulative evidence from both these sources, I would first like to say a few words which might better explain the course which this model-insect money seems to have followed during its

existence as currency. Most, if not all of the

barter currency objects used for the purposes of exchange in Ancient China have followed a regular and uninterrupted course of development from articles of daily use until they finally reached the stage of token money, in which condition they were no longer serviceable for the original purposes which their prototypes were first intended. The different stages of this gradual evolution have been marked and followed, all be it superficially,

in my monograph dealing with the "Early Chinese Barter and Uninscribed Money." Prominent among them were the spade and knife derivatives and which eventually reached the condition of inscribed token money. Even the humble *cash* has its own and independent origin, traced back to the primitive *pi* (璧) and armlets, and have had no connection whatever with the ring on the handle of the knife



Fig. 3. Adult or embryo cicada with undeveloped wings. (From the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai*.)

coins, which in no single instance antedate the old round money objects which were provided first with a round hole and afterwards with this central aperture made square.

A more or less similar condition of affairs seems to have taken place with the Model-Insect Money of Ancient China. Thanks to indisputable archeological evidence, which is the most, if not absolutely the only trustworthy source where sino-numismatics are concerned, we are now able to follow the gradual course of its transformation from the commencement when it realistically imitated the original, through the intervening steps clearly differentiated from each other—as interesting as the natural metamorphosis of the actual life of the insects themselves—until the conventional stages were reached, in this form so altered as to be almost unrecognizable.



Fig. 5. Perfect or Winged Form of the Cicada. Male species. (From the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai*.)



Fig. 4. Perfect or Winged Form of the Cicada. Female species. (From the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai*.)

The evidence derived from the first specimens of this class of money which came to hand

pointed to only one kind of insect being represented, its shape and other indications suggesting the cicada in preference to any other. It was under this title that the two first examples in my collection were classified in my monograph "Chinese Early Barter and Uninscribed Money." The recent advent of a new specimen perfectly different to all

the others hitherto known, resembling the larva of some insect, for the reasons stated further on, has made me come to the conclusion that this class of money comprised perhaps one other kind of insect

besides the cicada. My first idea was that this additional specimen might be intended to represent one of the earlier states of the life of the *cicada adusta*, but after closely examining the matamorphosis which this particular *hemoptera* undergoes during its life, I was not entirely satisfied with the likeness between them, and decided that it might have reference to some other insect, perhaps of the same family. There were

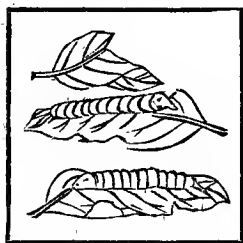


Fig. 6. Larva or Caterpillar of the *Fu*. (From the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai*.)

certain physical characteristics distinctly marked in the life-like reproduction of this new specimen, such as the two hind legs, clearly outlined head and other traits, which give it a close resemblance to the caterpillar of an insect well known to Chinese entomologists under the name of *Fu* (蚘). As around this beetle



Fig. 7. Beetle or fully developed state of the *Fu*. (From the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai*.)

have been woven, this coincidence was too remarkable to be overlooked. I thought that it might even turn out that the other specimens representing an insect in its fully developed or finished state would also be identified with the *fu*, which in its winged form has a close resemblance to the cicada. But as I believe that the wings of this beetle when in repose are not held in the same position as in that of the metal representatives, I have consequently discarded this idea and still adhere to the cicada theory as best fitting the case.

The cicada or broad locust of China is common all over that country. It has many names, such as the autumn cicada (秋蟬), the gauze cicada (紗蟬), and the autumn cooler (秋涼兒). It is known to the Chinese under the name of *Ch'an* (蟬), sometimes read *Shan*. There are many well known expressions in which this insect figures, in some

of which it has been introduced most appropriately. 蟬不知雪, "The cicada knows nothing of snow,—it dies in the autumn": hence, ignorant. 少不得要使個金蟬脫殼之法子, "I wish I could slip out of my skin like a cicada" needs no comment, while 寒蟬 "Silent,—like the cicada in cold weather" is most expressive as being in such contrast to the noise produced by this insect during the late summer months.

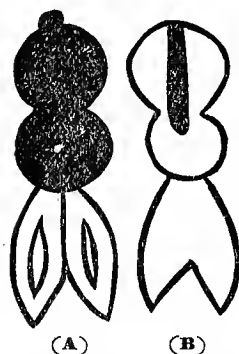


Fig. 8. Model-cicada money. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section. (From the *Ki Kin Chi Ts'un*.)

Both the male and female of the cicada were known to the ancient world of the West. The sound uttered by the male evidently inspired the saying of the Greek poet Xenarchus "Happy the cicadas' lives, for they have noiseless wives." Chinese native literature on the cicada is comparatively abundant, some books having been entirely dedicated to this subject. It is mentioned in the *Shu king* (經詩), the Genesis of the ancient classics, referring to its cry in May (Chinese calendar). In fact, this insect may be said to have occupied, although to a less degree, the same position in ancient China as the scarab held in ancient Egypt, since it was similarly connected with life and death, if not actual immortality; the power to live without eating or drinking, etc. The ancient Chinese were evidently well acquainted with this, as well as other insects of the same family, archeological proofs now to hand affording every possible evidence in this direction. That they had, as well, a knowledge of the metamorphosis of these insects is also borne out by the same examples in question.

The life of the cicada is graphically described through its various

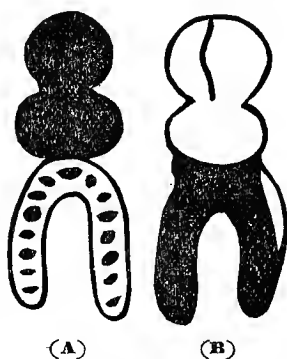


Fig. 9. Model-cicada money. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section. (From the *Ki Kin Chi Ts'un*.)

stages in the Japanese Encyclopaedia the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai* (和漢三才圖會), which information is supposed to have been extracted from one of the Han Lin Academy's publications. This work, published in the third year of *Shotoku* (正徳), 1713, illustrates and describes the principal phases of the metamorphosis of this insect, the illustrations being of such interest that I have reproduced them all here. Commencing with the grub state, as pictured in Fig. 1, we are informed that it lives in rotten wood, refuse heaps or other such uncleanly places.

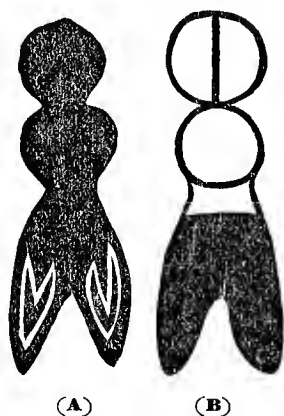


Fig. 10. Model-cicada money. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section. (From the *Ku Chin Chuan Lueh*.)

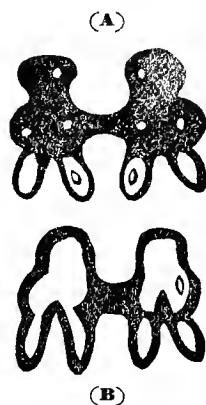


Fig. 11. Model-cicada money. Two joined together. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section. (From the *Ku Chin Chuan Lueh*.)

The next stage of its transformation, the pupa which is found underground, is illustrated in Fig. 2. The outer shell is said to be very hard, but in order to show that the animal inside is still alive, children hold it between the fingers and thumb when the upper portion wriggles in all directions, hence its soubriquet *nishi dochi* (にしごち), i.e. "pointing to the West." In this condition it is supposed to drop from a great height (it does not say how it reaches there) when the outer shell breaks and allows the bug shown in Fig. 3 to come out—an embryo cicada. Within a few hours the wings appear and the perfect or winged form is reached, Figs. 4 and 5 representing the male and female of the

species. When comparing the substitute specimens in bronze which were used as currency with these illustrations, the close resemblance to each other is unmistakeable.

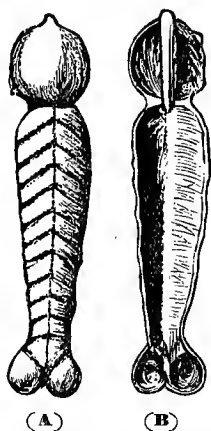


Fig. 12. Model-caterpillar money. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section. (Ramsden collection.)

The *Fu* is a species of water beetle known as 青蚨 or 蚨蟬. There is a popular saying that if the mother and a young are killed and the blood of each rubbed on 81 *cash*, these 162 *cash*, although dispersed in the market, will always find their way together again. Another version is that some of these *cash* must be retained by the person so that the others may know where to join them again. Some Chinese commentators, with more simplicity than acumen, argue that such a thing could never happen and treat the matter symbolically as expressing



Fig. 13. Model-cicada money. Upper section. (Ramsden collection.)

ing the love of the mother to its young, perhaps referring to the care with which the eggs are laid. It is further stated that this saying originated with one of the Immortals, without specifying which one, and that it was impossible for him to find out the truth of such a cruel proceeding as it would have entailed the slaughter of two innocent living creatures, to which act such a holy person could never have been associated. It is also claimed that it is suggestive of the rarity of this beetle, and which in some parts of China is declared more difficult to find even than the *cash*! Any how, the tradition exists and when it was begun or with whom it originated, I have been unable to find out with any degree of certainty. The use of the character *fu* (蚨) to signify *cash*, evidently dates from far back. *Huai Nan Tzu*

(淮南子), was the first to give to the copper *cash* the name of 青蚨. This prince, otherwise known as *Liu An* (劉安), who died in B. C. 122, was fond of books, his studies lying in the direction of alchemistic research, on which subject and also on the discovery of the elixir of life, he published several treatises. This sign is sometimes employed to signify *cash* or money: for instance, 京蚨四吊 is used to express "Four strings of Peking *cash*," while it is even applied to foreign money, as 洋蚨五餅 "Five cakes of foreign money," i.e. dollars and 花蚨 "coins, dollars, rupees," etc.

I am again indebted to the *Wa Kan San Sai Dzukai* previously cited for an account of the life of the *fu*. Fig. 6 shows us two caterpillars upon the leaves on which they are supposed to feed. There is



Fig. 15. Model - cicada money. Upper section. (Ramsden collection.)

certainly a great difference between the likeness of this caterpillar and the maggot of the cicada, even their habitats being perfectly distinct, since the latter is entirely subterranean. Comparing the larva of the *fu* as pictured in Fig. 6 and the metal representative illustrated in Fig. 12, we can scarcely fail to notice their similarity. The perfect form of the *fu* is reproduced in Fig. 7. It is pictured in the act of flying in the vicinity of water and immediately below will be seen the cat-tail rushes, along the blade of one of which this insect has laid eight eggs.

When flying, this water beetle certainly resembles the cicada, although it is much smaller. Unfortunately the artist did not draw this insect while in repose as was the case with the former in Figs. 4 and 5. I am nevertheless inclined to believe that the *fu* did not hold its wings when at rest in the same position as that of the cicada, which same disposition is clearly shown in the metallic model insects under discussion.



Fig. 14. Model - cicada money. Upper section. (Ramsden collection.)

Foreign treatises on the coinages of the Far East, outside of my opusculé previously referred to, make no mention of the cicada or other model-insect money of China. Of native numismatic works, there are only two, to my knowledge, that include examples of this class of money.

The *Ki Kin Chi Ts'un* (吉金志存), published during the Hsieng Feng (咸豐) period, A.D. 1851-1862, and which purports to be the catalogue of the *Pao* (寶) collection, includes two specimens of this insect-model currency, both of which are illustrated showing the upper and lower sides and which are here reproduced over Figs. 8 and 9. The former is very similar to that shown in Fig.

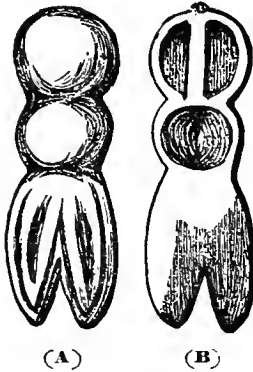


Fig. 16. Model-cicada money. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section. (Ramsden collection.)

wings, is altogether of a different and distinct type, which is new to me. There is no further explanation in the text other than that they are shaped after the cicada. The author evidently considered them, nevertheless, as some kind of money, since they are placed together with examples of metallic cowries or Ants' Nose money, which are well known to have served for currency purposes during the early periods of that country.

The *Ku Chin Chuan Lueh* (古今錢畧), one of the most recent, as well as voluminous, productions published in 1877, also counts with two examples of this insect money. The one shown in Fig. 10 is taken from this work and represents what is probably the best known type of the cicada money. The other example mentioned by this treatise is also reproduced here over Fig. 11, possessing certain peculiarities to which it



Fig. 17. Model-cicada money. Upper section. (Ramsden collection.)

might perhaps be desirable to draw attention. It will be noticed that two model-cicadas are here joined together, forming a pair. They are both of the same size, although considerably smaller than all the other known examples of this kind of money. It will also be seen that instead of the usual bar traversing the underside of the head, which was used for attaching or hanging by, three small holes bored on each of the specimens are made to serve this purpose. The description which accompanies the above two examples is both meagre and ambiguous. They are classed together with other "money to be fastened to the wearing apparel" (佩錢), whatever this may mean. Their shape is compared to that of a gourd (胡蘆), but no attempt is made to connect them with any other models. Less still is

there any mention whatever made of their being fashioned after the cicada or any other insect.

As nothing of any practical value is advanced in the text, their only service to numismatics is limited to that which is rendered by the crude illustrations themselves.

In my monograph "Chinese Early Barter and Uninscribed Money," published in 1912, two specimens were dealt with. Since then I have been able to add considerably to my collection, among which are several new and interesting forms which now allow me to

throw further light on this model-insect currency. My cabinet to-day comprises ten specimens of this class of money, all of which are re-



Fig. 19. Model - cicada money. Upper section. (Ramsden collection.)

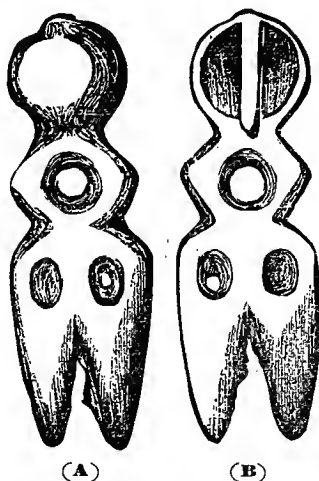


Fig. 18. Model-cicada money. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section. (Ramsden collection.)

produced in these pages. As the illustrations will probably convey a better idea of the originals than any amount of written description, no



Fig. 20. Model - cicada money. Upper section. (Ramsden collection.)

detailed particulars of each piece will be necessary. They are all cast, of a rich bronze composition indicating a slight admixture of gold, which same traces are also found in the metals out of which some of the earlier coins of that country were made. The workmanship, with the exception of Fig. 21, is the same throughout, some

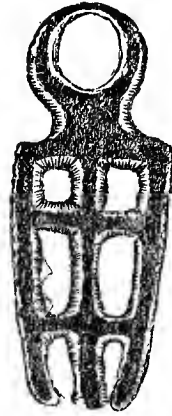


Fig. 21. Conventional model-cicada money. (Ramsden collection.)

rougher than others, the sand used for the mould probably being coarser. Several have a smooth and polished surface as if they had been in service or circulation for a considerable length of time during an early period of their existence. Excepting Fig. 21, they all have a bar traversing the lower or concave section of the head, in a similar manner and probably intended for the same purpose as those found on the more or less contemporaneous "carapace" or "shield" money of that country. Nearly all are patinated, some of a green colour, others with red patches, and the majority with that transparent black patina so much admired by sino-numismatists.

The dimensions are the same as in the illustrations, which are actual size, while the weights are the following :

(1). Fig. 12.	Larva or caterpillar shape...	3.5 grammes.
(2). Fig. 13.	Winged shape	12.2 ,,
(3). Fig. 14.	Id id	10.0 ,,
(4). Fig. 15.	Id id	7.0 ,,

(5).	Fig. 16.	Winged shape		6.5	„
(6).	Fig. 17.	Id id		5.7	„
(7).	Fig. 18.	Id id		16.3	„
(8).	Fig. 19.	Id id		8.9	„
(9).	Fig. 20.	Id id		11.7	„
(10).	Fig. 21.	Conventional shape.....		24.0	„

The above specimens may be conveniently divided into three distinct groups :—

- A. Those modelled after the larva or caterpillar,
- B. Those modelled after the perfect insect in its winged form,
- C. Those of purely conventional shape.

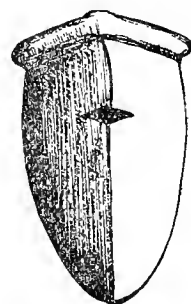
Of the former, I have seen but one specimen, that illustrated in Fig. 12, showing both the upper and lower sides. The top part is convex, while both the head and body sections on the under side are concave, so that it is really only the outer shell of the caterpillar. Of the second class, those representing the cicada proper or fully developed insect, there are various types. Figs. 13 to 17 can all be classified together and may be regarded as the type most often met with.

The lower or under

Fig. 22. Model - cicada for inserting in the mouth of the dead. Upper Section. (Ramsden collection.)



Fig. 23. Model-cicada for inserting in the mouth of the dead. (Ramsden collection.)



sides are the same in all the specimens, the head and body parts concave, while the wing sections are flat, as will be seen on the right hand side of Fig. 16, which shows both sections. Slightly varying sizes and shapes will also be noted, the main differences being in the formation of the wings, some of which are quite oval (Figs. 14-16), while others are more angular in shape and opened wider at the bottom (Figs. 13 and 17). The pattern on the wings, more or less

similar in all of them, is no doubt intended to convey the translucent and membranous condition of the originals. The third type of this group is further removed from the cicada model, since it has the addition of three apertures perforating the body and the wings, which characteristics are not to be found on the living insects. Fig. 18 belongs to this type and is the largest of the model-cicada money, unadorned, while another is

that figured in No. 19, where there is, besides, a new and pleasing geometrical pattern-design added

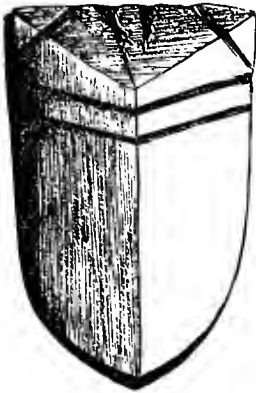


Fig. 24. Model-cicada for inserting in the mouth of the dead (Ramsden collection.)

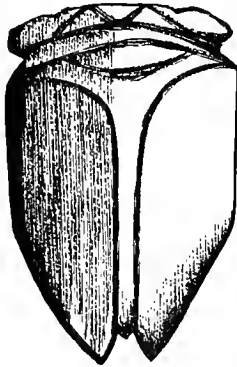


Fig. 25. Model-cicada for inserting in the mouth of the dead. (Ramsden collection.)

to the wings. The obverse or under sides are the same in both, as illustrated in the corresponding section in Fig. 18. The next type is that illustrated in Fig. 20, where the wings are marked with an attractive, if un-natural arrow-butt pattern. The under or lower side of this specimen, not here illustrated, is the same as in those of the previous series.

The last and most separated group—as I believe that this object belongs to this series of model-insect currency —consists of but one example which is reproduced in Fig. 21. The head has in this case been transformed into a loop or ring, which serves for hanging by, while the body and wings, of openworkmanship or perforated, have been merged into each other, forming one section. This specimen does not appear to be

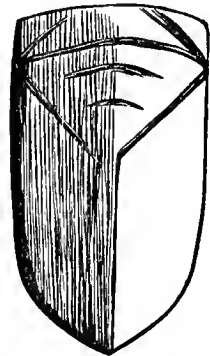


Fig. 26. Model-cicada for inserting in the mouth of the dead. (From the *Journal of the Archeological Society, Tokyo.*)

of the same period as the others above dealt with, from which it differs in both execution and composition of the metal. It is so far removed that by itself and without the aid of the previously mentioned intervening examples which mark the gradual transformation of its evolution, it

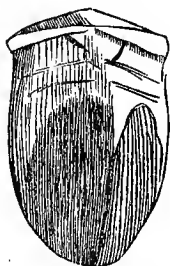


Fig. 27. Model-cicada for inserting in the mouth of the dead. (From the *Journal of the Archeological Society*, Tokyo.)

prominently. Till the time of the *Han* (漢) dynasty, B.C. 206, it was the practice of placing in the mouth of the dead a wedge modelled after the cicada which would have the property of allaying thirst and hunger, since they believed this quality was possessed by the living insect which requires neither drink nor food during its existence while

in its perfect form. This practice may have been derived from the still earlier custom of blocking up all the orifices of a corpse, probably with the object of preventing evil spirits from entering and making the dead body their dwelling place. The nose, ears, mouth, etc., each had its

would have been impossible in its present condition to connect this object with the model-cicada money under discussion. It probably represents the last stage of this currency, now so conventionalized as to have little or no resemblance to the original insect from which it was primarily derived and which the first representative specimens so faithfully portray.

Before concluding these notes, I can not refrain from citing an ancient burial custom among the Chinese in which the cicada figures

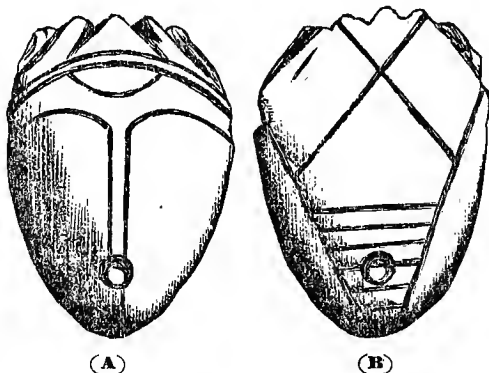


Fig. 28. Model-cicada for inserting in the mouth of the dead. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section, (Ramsden collection.)

separate plug, that which fitted into the mouth, during certain periods at least, being round, until it finally assumed the shape of the cicada for the reasons above stated. These wedge model-cicadas were made usually of jade or other superior stone, Figs. 22 and 23 picturing two examples of this material showing the earliest forms in black and light green jade respectively. Those in Figs. 24 and 25, show two large genuine specimens carved from some white stone, of an early period, the undersides, as in all the others where not stated to the contrary, being flat. Two illustrations taken from the Journal of the Archeological Society, Tokyo (Vol. 2, No. 6, 1912), are for comparison purposes also here reproduced over Figs. 26 and 27. Figs. 28 and 29, reproducing specimens from my own collection, are of exceptional interest. Fig.

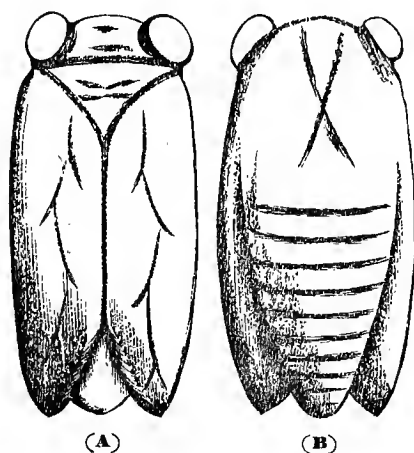


Fig. 29. Model-cicada for inserting in the mouth of the dead. Representative specimen. (A). Upper Section. (B). Lower Section. (Ramsden collection.)

28 belongs probably to a later period than any of the above. It is of white marble and not only has both the upper and lower sections carved, but they closely and most realistically follow the principal traits seen in the originals. I am inclined to believe that the one illustrated in Fig. 29 is but a copy of the preceding, as judging by the style of carving, workmanship and material (soft stone), I do not think can be much older than the *Ming* (明) dynasty, A.D. 1368, by which epoch this ancient custom had long died out.

It will be noticed that these stone objects are perfectly different in shape, material and use from the metallic model-insect money in question. They have nothing in common between them other than their origin, which in both cases is the cicada.

Whether the purchasing power of this model-insect currency was

primarily based upon the actual value of the insects represented (which could never have been very great), as was the case with the spade and knife coins of ancient China which system first began by barter, or what other considerations influenced the shape of this peculiarly formed money, are matters which must for the present remain in abeyance. We know that originally in the early days of currency in that country any lump of metal of convenient size, irrespective of its shape, was used for exchange on account of its metallic value. If this model-insect money

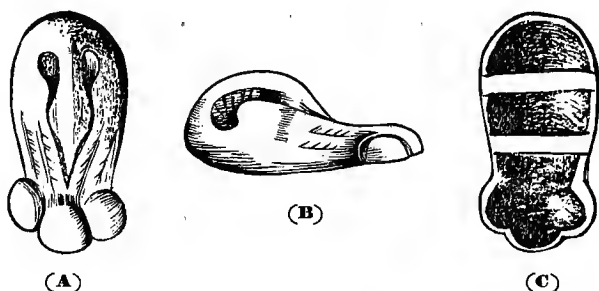


Fig. 30. Carapace or Shield money in the form of a Duck in a sleeping position with its head bent backwards over the body. (A). View from above. (B). Side view. (C). View from below. (Ramsden collection.)

passed current for its metal weight, then there must have been some special reason for the various specimens adopting the shapes assumed by certain insects during the different stages of their metamorphosis:— but these are questions which I must leave to other and better informed students to decide.

Although technically speaking the object next dealt with can scarcely be considered as coming under the category of "model-insect money," I nevertheless have good reasons for including it here. The miniature duck illustrated over Fig. 30, presents to us such interesting and striking features that we can not fail to at once recognize its connection with the subject under discussion. Besides proving the existence of a model-bird currency, on similar lines to that of the model-insect money previously described, one is led to suggest the inference that further examples of this model-animal currency may have also existed contem-

poraneously with these two instances, which form two separate and distinct groups of this peculiar kind of money. It may well result that other animals may also have served as models for this purpose just as the Malay *Gambar* currency comprises several kinds of animals, including reptiles (crocodiles), birds (cocks) and insects (mantis). The model-bird money here reproduced constitutes the intermediate link between the *carapace* or *model-shield* money for “the wearing apparel” and the

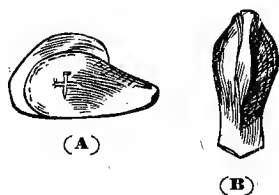


Fig. 31. Assyrian half-shekel weight of the so called Duck-type. (A). Side view showing cuneiform symbol = $\frac{1}{2}$. (B). View from above. (From Ridgeway's *The Origin of Metallic Currency and Weight Standards*.)

model-insect money which forms the theme of this monograph. The workmanship, metal, patination and other characteristics most closely approximate it to this latter class of representative money, as they are almost identical in both cases. It is the first example of its kind that has come to our knowledge. The actual size illustrations, Fig. 30, which show the top, side and bottom views, convey a most clear idea of its appearance. The present specimen weighs 10.1 grammes and was

procured in Tokyo by that ardent numismatist, my friend Mr. E. T. Sykes, who kindly presented it to me.

The position of the duck, in a sleeping or resting attitude with its neck bent over the body most forcibly reminds me of an Assyrian half shekel mentioned and illustrated in “*The Origin of Metallic Currency and Weight Standards*.” These very illustrations are here reproduced over Fig. 31, showing both the top and side views. No one has yet attempted to claim for this or any of the other Assyrian duck-type weights the functions of currency, their use being apparently limited to metrology. The likeness between Prof. Ridgeway's example and this Chinese counterpart is certainly remarkable, but I fail to see how there can be any connection between them. It would have required the fertile imagination of the late Professor Terrien de Lacouperie to associate the one with the other. He would have no doubt made it serve the purposes of proof for his fantastic doctrine of the derivation of the coinage of

China from that of the West, which theory he based on much slenderer grounds than the above coincidence.





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